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**TU PRESENTS FOUR ALUMNI WITH HIGHEST HONOR**

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Volume 17

January 2020

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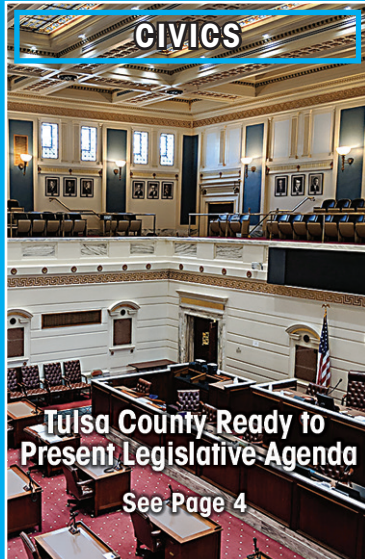
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# Tulsa's Future Supports Thousands of Jobs and \$829 Million in Capital Investment

*Tulsa Region Continues to Attract High Quality Jobs*

Courtesy TAYLOR COSTLEY  
Tulsa Regional Chamber

Tulsa's Future, the public-private regional economic development partnership led by the Tulsa Regional Chamber, helped create 2,609 jobs and generate \$829 million of capital investment in northeast Oklahoma in 2019.

Notable economic development projects recently announced include Milo's Tea Company's \$60 million production plant in Owasso; the relocation of 85 Triumph Aerospace Structures employees to downtown Tulsa; and the addition of 615 jobs at the American Airlines' Tulsa maintenance base.

Tulsa's Future tracks primary jobs at companies with which the Chamber has partnered with directly.

"Primary job growth has a ripple effect on the entire region, as each primary job supports additional secondary jobs in northeast Oklahoma," says Bill Murphy, senior vice president of economic development for the Tulsa Regional Chamber. "The Tulsa region saw steady growth this year and continues to attract and expand high-quality employers."

In addition to these announcements, Tulsa was recently recognized as one of the 50 best places to start a business and was ranked the No. 1 city in wage growth by Inc. Magazine. Per capita income in the Tulsa metropolitan statistical area is estimated to have risen 11.1 percent in 2018.

"American Airlines' continued investment in the region, as well as per capita income growth, are reflective of a strong regional workforce," says Murphy. "Tulsa's



GTR Media Group photo

**\$60 MILLION PRODUCTION PLANT:** Milo's Tea Company's \$60 million production plant now being constructed in Owasso will be an economic boost to greater Tulsa. Additional notable economic development projects include relocation of 85 Triumph Aerospace Structures employees to downtown Tulsa and the addition of 615 jobs at the American Airlines Tulsa maintenance base.

ranking as one of the best places to start a business is a testament to our continued economic development efforts."

Tulsa's Future is a collaborative economic development partnership that works with the City of Tulsa, 201 private investors from the business community, and a number of regional and tribal partners to further economic prosperity. Now in its third phase, Tulsa's Future has generated \$1.9 billion of capital investment and created 16,382 jobs since 2016. Since its inception in 2005, Tulsa's Future has supported the creation of 69,249 jobs in northeast Oklahoma.

"Tulsa's Future is a proven model that continues to transform our region and position northeast Oklahoma as an ideal place for businesses to grow," says Mike Neal, president and CEO of the Tulsa Regional Chamber. "We are excited to continue this work with all of

our partners and propel the Tulsa region into the next decade."

### About the Tulsa Regional Chamber

Representing more than 2,150 member organizations and more than 178,000 workers, the Tulsa Regional Chamber is the primary driver of regional and individual prosperity in northeast Oklahoma. The Chamber develops and delivers a wide variety of programs and services designed to bolster and benefit Tulsa-area businesses of all shapes and sizes, from large corporations to small startups. For more than 115 years, the Chamber has served as an integral part of what makes the Tulsa region a great place to live, work and play. As epitomized by the Chamber tagline – "Your Partner in Prosperity" – every strategy, program and service of the Chamber is created specifically to increase prosperity.

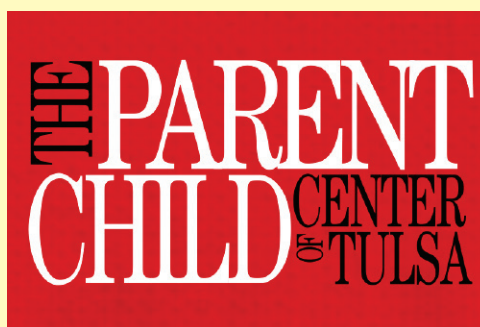
The Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) named the Tulsa Regional Chamber the nation's best chamber in 2005, 2008 and 2010. The Chamber has been recognized three times by the Oklahoma Quality Foundation (OQF), including receipt of OQF's Award for Commitment to Excellence in 2019. The Chamber holds three prestigious accreditations: five-star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; accredited economic development organization through the International Economic Development Council (IEDC); and accredited destination marketing organization (VisitTulsa) through Destinations International (DI). The Chamber also houses the Tulsa Office of Film, Music, Arts & Culture (Tulsa FMAC), Oklahoma's only accredited city film commission through the Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI).

## KUDOS of the MONTH: Parent Child Center of Tulsa

The Parent Child Center of Tulsa's (PCCT) mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect through education, treatment and advocacy.

The agency offers services for vulnerable families in the Tulsa metro area. PCCT's youth programs teach kids how to identify troubling behavior at home and how to reach out to a trusted adult when needed. Its youth programs also work within the community to prevent bullying.

Its registered nurses meet with caregivers of newborns in all six birthing hospitals in Tulsa to teach them about the Period of Purple Crying, the time in a baby's life when they cry more than any other time, prevention of shaken baby syndrome, and encourage caregivers to talk, sing and read



to their babies.

In-home nurse visits are offered to provide post-partum support for mothers of newborns and connect them to additional resources.

The agency also offers in-home parenting support by social work professionals to provide caregivers information and assistance to enhance the emotional, social, physical and language development of young children.

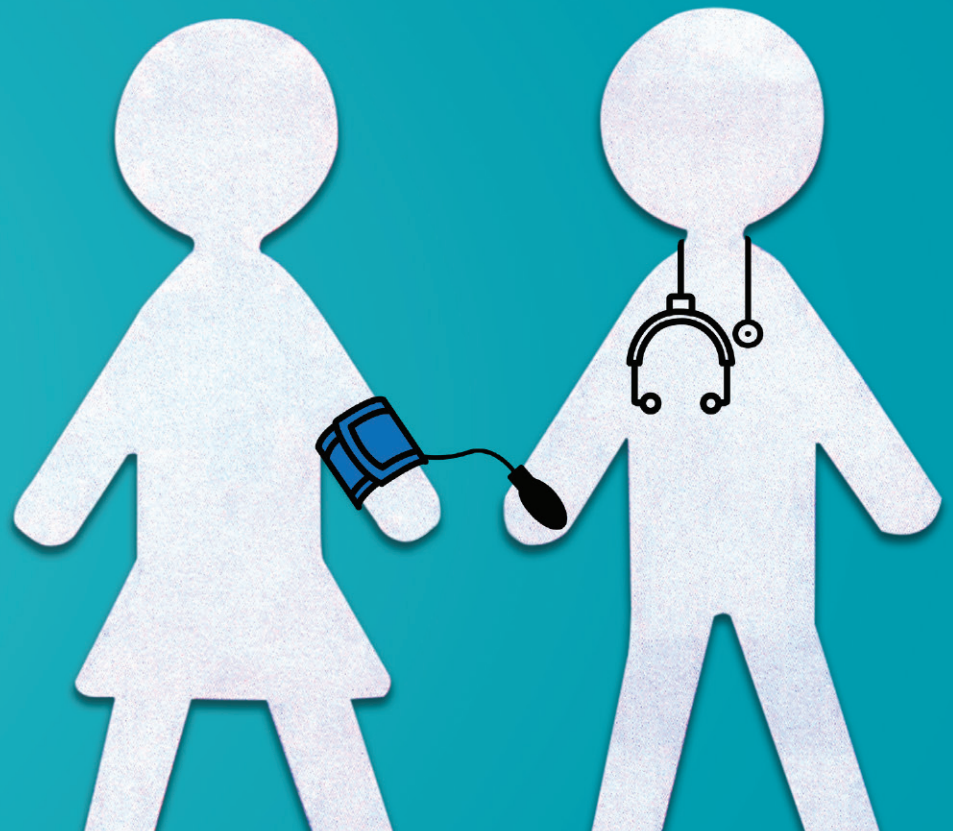
Lastly, PCCT provides clinical services to vulnerable families to create healthy, nurturing relationships between parents and children and break the cycle of generational child abuse and neglect. Their clinicians specialize in infant mental health. PCCT is considered a leader among Tulsa area non-profits in the area of child abuse and neglect prevention.

The PCCT's Toyland Ball fundraiser, which will be held Jan. 18 at the Cox Business Center, is celebrating its 30th year.



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# Joyful Events Bring in the New Year in Greater Tulsa

By GRANT ROWL  
Contributing Writer

The 2020 New Year came in with positive fun for many in the greater Tulsa area. Among the fun spots celebrants were Tulsa's Gathering Place and the new Tulsa Club Hotel.

Gathering Place had been transformed into a Winter Wonderland. Winter Wonderland, presented by American Airlines, spread holiday cheer with nightly entertainment, a special snow show, a holiday train and lights shining throughout Chapman Adventure Playground.

The Tulsa Club Hotel held its first New Year's Eve celebration, the Emerald Ball. Guests experienced sophistication and style at the event. The Tulsa Club Hotel, a Curio Collection by Hilton, is located in the Deco District of historic downtown Tulsa. It is in walking distance to over 50 restaurants, shopping and major downtown attractions such as the Tulsa Performing Arts Center and the breathtaking Boston Avenue corridor.

The Tulsa Club Hotel is a historic gem for Tulsa that once was the epicenter for the elite. The building boasts a 1927 Art Deco architectural style designed by world-renowned architect Bruce Goff. It offers more than 7,000 sq. ft. of flexible meeting space including a stunning ballroom for up to 400. The ballroom also connects to more flexible options with a one of a kind rooftop meeting space that includes a large boardroom overlooking the historic Deco District. All guest rooms offer a unique layout and modern décor, a desk with vanity, a 55-inch TV and remote-controlled window pieces. The suites offer additional space, upgraded amenities and magnificent views.

Tulsa Club Hotel offers a classic, sophisticated restaurant serving French cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and room service until 11 p.m. Guests can experience high-end service and happy hour specials in the lively lobby lounge, where they can enjoy glamorous cocktails and a vibrant 1920s ambience. The hotel also offers an exercise regimen in the Health Club Gym, with upgraded cardio and training equipment. The hotel's business center is also available for those catching up on work.



**WINTER WONDERLAND:** Youngsters have fun at the Winter Wonderland at Gathering Place.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Guests at the Tulsa Club Hotel welcome the New Year with a fun-time celebration at the hotel's first-ever Emerald Ball.



**NEW YEAR'S SOUND:** Saxophonist Grady Nichols checks the time as the midnight hour neared at the Tulsa Club Hotel. At left is Mike Wilson and the singer is Denise Hoey.



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<b>ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE</b> John Bensinger	<b>GREATER TULSA REPORTER</b> P.O. Box 470645 • Tulsa, OK 74147-0645 918-254-1515 • 918-254-1550 (fax) info@gtrnews.com advertising@gtrnews.com

**JANUARY 2020**

Vol. 28, No. 1 (*Union Boundary*);  
Vol. 24, No. 1 (*Jenks District Gazette, Midtown Monitor*);  
Vol. 22, No. 1 (*Owasso Rambler, Broken Arrow Express*);  
Vol. 17, No. 1 (*Bixby Breeze*)

**COPY DROP-OFF:** 5401 S. Sheridan Rd. • Suite 302 • Tulsa, OK 74133



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The *Union Boundary*, the *Jenks District Gazette*, the *Owasso Rambler*, the *Broken Arrow Express* and the *Bixby Breeze* are distributed monthly to select homes in the Union, Jenks, Owasso, Broken Arrow and Bixby school districts. The *Midtown Monitor* is distributed to selected neighborhoods in the Tulsa school district. All six papers are distributed to news stands and other outlets in more than 700 locations throughout the Greater Tulsa area.

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CIVICS

# Tulsa's Affordable Housing Strategy Underway

In December, we got a glimpse into the future of housing in Tulsa thanks to the work of the City's first Housing Policy Director, Becky Gligo. With Gligo's hard work and the formation of an agency coalition, we put forth our first Affordable Housing Strategy that is working to tackle some of the toughest housing issues we face today.

Ranking as the 11th highest evictor in the nation and needing about 4,000 quality affordable housing units, Tulsa is in desperate need of a housing roadmap. We must do better. This strategy provides an actionable plan to create more affordable housing opportunities, reduce evictions and help lower the number of Tulsans facing homelessness.

Operating on four core values, 10

detailed strategies and multiple actionable metrics, the city is taking action to preserve neighborhoods and help provide decent, safe and affordable housing for all of our neighbors. Every neighborhood in Tulsa needs equitable investment, and we must operate on the notion that affordable housing is a human right, no matter an individual's income or what zip code they live in.

For some, having a high cost of living can be the difference in, "do I buy groceries this month or pay the bills." We never want that to be the case. Starting in 2020, we will work to create the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which will help us gain access to additional resources to allow us to put more money than ever before into affordable housing creation, preservation and tenant protections. Also

## From Tulsa's Mayor



By G.T. BYNUM  
Mayor of Tulsa



HOUSING COALITION MEMBERS: Mayor G.T. Bynum, Housing Policy Director Becky Gligo (left of mayor), and housing coalition members announce the release of the city's first Affordable Housing Strategy on Dec. 12, 2019. It is working to eliminate difficult housing issues.

in 2020, we will continue to work with Working In Neighborhoods on their Housing Opportunity Program and work to launch landlord/tenant outreach opportunities to combat evictions in Tulsa.

When everyone has a quality, affordable place to live and thrive, so too can our economy. Through holistic neighborhood investment, we're creating opportunities for developers to come in, provide jobs and give people the types of housing they need. With increased

home stability, our neighbors shouldn't have to worry about choosing between feeding their families or putting a roof over their heads.

And for those in Tulsa who don't have a place to call home, we must do our part to make sure they get the resources they need to transition into more permanent housing solutions. I'm excited to say Gligo will be taking a continued leadership role in A Way Home For Tulsa, our city's continuum of care

that is working to reduce homelessness.

If there's anything we learned in this process, it's that providing quality affordable housing takes a citywide effort, consisting of both for-profit and nonprofit entities. I'm incredibly thankful for everyone who had a hand in helping create our roadmap to a more successful housing landscape in Tulsa.

I invite you to read the strategy at [www.cityoftulsa.org/housing](http://www.cityoftulsa.org/housing).

# Tulsa County Ready to Present Legislative Agenda

As the state legislature convenes on Feb. 3, Tulsa County will be ready to present our legislative agenda for 2020. Included in our slate of legislative requests are three (3) bills which will address important public safety and government efficiency issues.

## Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery.

Oklahoma ranks fifth in the nation for the most federally declared natural disasters. The number of tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, and wildfires each year puts all of Oklahoma at high risk for the destruction of property and loss of life.

While we can't control when and where natural disasters will strike,

we can do much more to mitigate the impacts of these disasters and to be better prepared for the recovery that follows.

With the support of Representative Lonnie Sims and Senator Dave Rader, we will introduce the Hazard Mitigation Assessment District Act. It would allow county voters to decide if they want to fund a hazard mitigation and disaster recovery fund via a dedicated property assessment and to decide priorities for improving their safety during disasters.

## Inmates Working In Jail.

Even though the Tulsa County jail has more than 1,000 prisoners,

there is no law that would permit them to earn credits against their sentence by doing work in the jail.

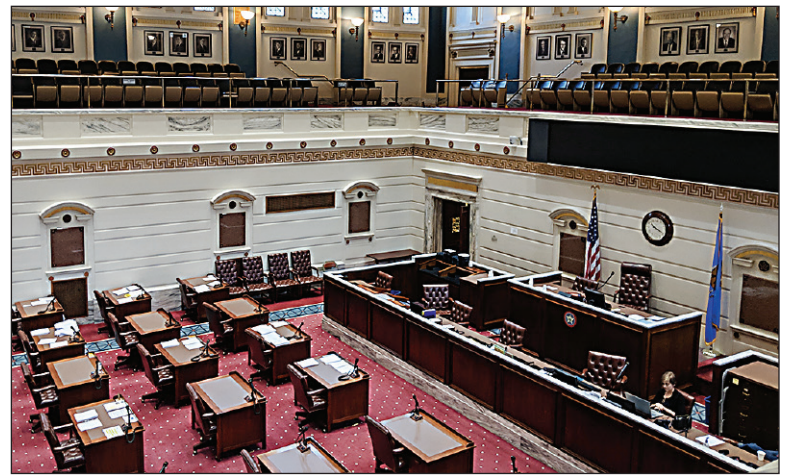
With no incentives to work, the jail can only rely upon the prisoner volunteering. This work could be general maintenance, grounds keeping, cleaning, and working in the kitchen.

Currently the jail has to rely upon either detention officers doing these jobs or hiring outside businesses.

Allowing the prisoners to earn credits against their sentence would shorten the time they are in custody while saving taxpayer dollars by reducing the jail's overhead. This work credit would also follow any prisoners who are transferred to the Department of Corrections and thereby shorten their stay and cost in the state prison system as well.

## Misdemeanor Drug Diversion

With the decriminalization of certain drug crimes from felonies to misdemeanors, there is a growing concern that those arrested for simple drug possession will be arrested and sentenced to serve their time in the Tulsa County jail. This would increase the cost of running



OKLAHOMA SENATE CHAMBER: Tulsa County will present its legislative agenda for 2020 when the State Legislature convenes on Feb. 3.

the jail. Also, it is important to realize that many of these individuals have drug addiction problems and would benefit more from evaluation and intervention than being incarcerated for what is now considered a minor crime.

Similar to the City of Tulsa's program to divert those arrested for alcohol offenses to the Sobering House, this legislation would

allow the arresting officer to offer the offender the option of either going to the OSU Medical and Sciences Center for drug addiction evaluation or to jail.

The goal of this cooperative program between the sheriff's office and the district attorney's office is to divert people into evaluation and/or treatment early in the process.



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# TU Presents Four Alumni with Highest Honor

Introduced in 1972, The University of Tulsa Alumni Association annually presents accomplished alumni with the association's highest honor – The Distinguished Alumni Award. Here are the 2019 recipients:

## William and Robert Thomas

In 1976, twin brothers Bill and Bob co-founded Gemini Properties — a real estate operating and investment company. The company's focus evolved toward senior housing in 1989 with the founding of Senior Star. The company's living and care options for aging adults include independent living, assisted living, and memory support. A growing company with strong leadership has enabled the brothers to focus their energies on senior and community issues.

Longtime Tulsa Area United Way (TAUW) supporters, Bill and Bob chaired the 2002 TAUW capital campaign, raising a record-breaking \$25 million in the midst of the country's financial recession. The following year, the pair served as board co-chairs of TAUW.

Bill and Bob have had the unprecedented honor of receiving three distinct awards from the Association of Fundraising Professionals Eastern Oklahoma Chapter — being named as the 2000 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser, the 2007 Outstanding Philanthropist, and most recently the 2016 Pillar Award Recipient for philanthropy leadership benefiting the Tulsa community. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Tulsa granted Bill and Bob their 2001 Leadership Award and their alma mater, the University of Tulsa, named the brothers 2011 Outstanding Entrepreneurs, inducting them into the Collins College of Business Hall of Fame.

## William Thomas (BS '74)

Bill served as chairperson of the Philbrook Museum of Art Board of Trustees, as well as for the American Seniors Housing Association (ASHA) and The Tulsa Community Foundation. He also serves on the boards of Philbrook, AHSA, the University of Tulsa, and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Sooner Chapter.

Bill and his wife Susan have chaired fundraising galas and capital campaigns for LIFE Senior Services, Domestic Violence Intervention Service, Project Woman and Street School. They also chaired the Philbrook Wine Experience twice, leading it into one of the top three fundraisers of its kind, nationwide.

Among Bill's most significant contributions to Tulsa is his seven-year term of board service to the Housing Authority of the City of Tulsa, which included his chairmanship of HOPE VI, a Public Housing Revitalization Program. This \$60 million public-private undertaking eliminated 1940s vintage housing and made way for "Country Club Gardens" — 396 units of exceptional residential apartments for low income and market rate housing.

## Robert Thomas (BS '74)

Fueled by a passion to help end Alzheimer's disease, Bob served on the Alzheimer's Association National Board of Directors for eight years and was a founding board member for the Alzheimer's Impact Movement, where he continues to serve as

treasurer. As volunteer lobbyists, he and his wife Jill routinely travel to Washington D.C. to promote increased Alzheimer's research funding.

Jill and Bob have chaired several galas in the Greater Tulsa area. Bob chaired the 2015 Alzheimer's Association Oklahoma Chapter Memory Gala, an event known as being among the top three fundraisers of its kind, nationwide. Bob received the Maureen Reagan Outstanding Advocate Award from the National Alzheimer's Association.

Bob holds advisory board positions for the American Seniors Housing Association and LIFE Senior Services. For LIFE, he also co-chaired two capital campaigns. Bob served as the Tulsa Opera Ball Patron Chair and chaired the Mental Health Association of Tulsa Gala.

## Sanjay Meshri (BA '92)

Admired and respected for his selfless support of philanthropic projects in northeast Oklahoma, Meshri's contributions to enhance civic organizations and community initiatives mirror the success he has experienced as an executive at Advance Research Chemicals in Catoosa. He embodies a strong sense of civic responsibility because he learned it firsthand as a student at The University of Tulsa.

After graduating, Meshri became the sixth employee at his father's company, Advance Research Chemicals (ARC). Meshri proved himself, working double shifts and weekends. Later that year, General Motors awarded ARC a large contract to produce a new coating for radiators. The company doubled in size and began building a factory for fabrication.

As ARC continues to grow, the core values Meshri inherited from his family and alma mater guide his leadership style and business decisions. "I try to stay very focused, listen carefully, always tell the truth. Your reward for doing a good job is you get another job," he explained. "Even in the bad times you learn."

Meshri is honored to serve on the many community boards and leadership teams he devotes time to in Tulsa, including the TU Board of Trustees. He is a member of the TU President's Council, Circle Society and Golden Hurricane Club. He chaired the Alumni Association's annual TU Uncorked fundraiser in 2017 and helped establish the Dr. Indu Meshri Memorial Scholarship Endowment in Geosciences in 2007 to honor his late mother, who earned a doctorate in geosciences from TU in 1981. Meshri's father, Dayal, is ARC's founder, president and CEO and is also a generous TU supporter.

Meshri is a founding member of the Patriot Golf Club and serves on the board of directors for Saint Francis Health System. He was inducted into the Tulsa Hall of Fame by the Tulsa Historical Society in 2017.

At 49 years old, the sky is the limit for Meshri. His ARC leadership, philanthropic endeavors and TU alumni recognition hold enormous potential to positively impact people around the world — a job he does not take lightly. "It makes me want to do even more and try and make everyone proud," he said

## Paula Kuykendall (BSBA '86)

"You can be anything you want to be, you



Courtesy The University of Tulsa

**DISTINGUISHED RECIPIENTS:** From left, Paula Kuykendall, Sanjay Meshri, Robert Thomas and William Thomas receive the University of Tulsa Alumni Association's highest honor – the Distinguished Alumni Award.

just have to work hard. Play fair. Do everything with integrity — it's the one thing you can give away that you can never get back." Her father's simple but prescient advice shaped Kuykendall's approach to success in life and in business. Recently retired, she reflects on these principles and the TU foundation that helped launch her career, which spanned from public accounting to an executive position in a Fortune 100 company.

Kuykendall didn't take the traditional route to TU. She started at Oklahoma State University but returned to Tulsa after two years to get a job and to figure out what she wanted to do next. It was the oil boom of the early 1980s, and Kuykendall secured a job at Occidental Petroleum, which offered the opportunity to fund her tuition at TU. She worked full time and took nine hours a semester until the oil bust, when she was laid off. In lieu of a traditional severance package, Occidental agreed to fund a semester of Kuykendall's TU tuition and books. Her husband, Patrick (MTax '90), urged her to enroll as a full-time student and finish her accounting degree.

Jim Miller (BSBA '66) was managing partner at Arthur Andersen when he hired Kuykendall as an accountant. "He took a

chance on me, and I owe a lot to him," she said. The two remain close friends and are staunch TU supporters.

After 10 years in public accounting, Kuykendall sought a career in private industry and went to work for Snappy Car Rental.

Looking back on her career, she said the relationships she built along the way stand out the most. "The thing I'm proudest of is the people who have worked with me along the way and seeing what they've accomplished. That means way more to me than anything I've been able to accomplish myself." And while female executives in the accounting field were historically uncommon, Kuykendall says she never looked at herself as a woman in business. "It just didn't seem different to me. I never carried that chip on my shoulder. If you're good at what you do and you treat the people who work for you well, you will have success."

Celebrating this honor means even more to Kuykendall that it occurs during the university's 125th anniversary. "My grandparents had season tickets for as long as I can remember growing up. I was born and raised here, and TU is part of who we are. I couldn't be prouder to be a distinguished alumna in our 125th year."



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VARIETY

# Good Times Will Roll in Tulsa in 2020

A new decade dawns, filled with possibility. Are you ready for 2020?

Now that everyone has packed away the holidays in one form or another, it's play-time. Indoor entertainment is never more appealing than in the dead of winter. Warm up with one of America's most-loved musicals. Meredith Wilson's "The Music Man" is about a con man who preys on the fears of a mid-western town as a way to line his pockets. Only the lovely and brainy Marian the librarian stands in his way. Memorable songs include "Seventy-Six Trombones," "Ya Got Trouble," and "Til There Was You." The production stars Mark Frie and Margaret Stall, Jan. 10-26 at the Tulsa PAC.

## Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN

A fantastic evening of music is presented by Tulsa Symphony, Jan. 11. Internationally known soprano Sarah Coburn, who happens to be a current Tulsa resident, will be a featured guest on Strauss' "Four Last Songs." Also part of the program is Elgar and Bach's Fantasia and Fugue in C Minor and Schumann's highly emotional Symphony No. 2. Later in the month, you can hear Tulsa Symphony play the score of the film "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" during a showing of the film at the PAC, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

Those bald and blue guys are back with more odd acts that incorporate eccentric music, art and comedy. In this new Blue Man Group show, the entertainers search for the elusive "present moment" while inviting large-scale participation and striving to make a universal connection. If you can imagine. Tulsa's Broadway presenter, Celebrity Attractions, and the PAC Trust host the Blue Man Group's Speechless Tour, Jan. 20-22.

Percussionist Ian David Rosen-

baum is guest artist for Choregus Productions, Jan. 24 at the PAC. A passionate advocate for contemporary work, Rosenbaum was hailed by the "Wall Street Journal" for his "spectacular performances." In Tulsa, he will present Christopher Cerrone's "Memory Palace," using creative music-making techniques and unconventional instruments. Cerrone's piece is a soundscape intended to evoke all the important places that helped to shape his life.

Near the top of my list for upcoming music events is the Daedalus Quartet, which will perform for Chamber Music Tulsa audiences at ahha in the Tulsa Arts District, Jan. 31, and at the Tulsa PAC, Feb. 2. The Quartet comprises three females and one male, unusual for a chamber music group, performing on violin, viola and cello. Promoting the idea that music has no borders, this group is among the finest of new generation string ensembles with critics praising them for their technical prowess and sheer gusto.

Head over to the the BOK Center, Jan. 16-19, for a new Cirque du Soleil show, "Axel." For this production, the main character is a skater, who is in hot pursuit of a woman, and on a quest for self-realization. The story takes place on ice with world-class skaters and acrobats, gorgeous costumes, moving music and an uplifting message.

One of the world's most gifted performers, Canadian singer Celine Dion, appears at the BOK Center, Feb. 5. If you have ever seen a Celine Dion concert, you know she has an amazing voice and is a consummate performer. For pure entertainment, this is a winner.

Much of the same can be said for country singer Miranda Lambert. Her fans rave about her concerts. Lambert has won the Country Music Association's "Female Vocalist of the Year" honor seven times, among countless other awards. She released her latest album "Wildcard" in Nov. 2019. Catch her "Wildcard Tour" at the BOK Center, Feb. 7.

At the Hard Rock Casino, comic and actor Chris Tucker entertains on Jan. 17, and heavy metal singer/songwriter Bret Michaels appears Jan. 23 as part of his "Unbroken World Tour." Michaels has sold 40 million records worldwide with "Every Rose Has Its Thorn" being his greatest hit.

Brighten the gray winter days at the River Spirit Casino and Resort with comedian, actor and impressionist Frank Caliendo, Jan. 10 (he



**BRET MICHAELS:** The former Motley Crew front man's "Unbroken World Tour" stops at the Hard Rock Casino on Jan. 23.



**MIRANDA LAMBERT:** The Country Music singer/songwriter brings her "Wild Card Tour" to the BOK Center Feb. 7.



**SHAKA KAHN:** She's every woman and she'll be at The River Spirit Casino and Resort Jan. 30.

does a hilarious Donald Trump), and actor and standup comedian Mike Epps, Jan. 24. Ten-time Grammy winner Chaka Khan appears in concert on Jan. 30. Jazz great Miles Davis said that she "sings like my horn." Then, on Feb. 1, take in an evening of music with the Eli Young Band.

For something very different, check out "The Nostalgia Will Eat Itself" at Nightingale Theater, Jan. 17 - Feb. 1, a horror piece written by John Fisher. The production is a collaboration between Heller Theatre and Midwestern Theatre



**CELINE DION:** The Canadian superstar appears at the BOK Center Feb. 5.



**BLUE MAN GROUP:** The bald and blue guys are back in town, Jan. 20-22 at the Tulsa PAC.



**THE MUSIC MAN:** Mark Frie as Harold Hill, Davis White as Winthrop, and Margaret Stahl as Marian Paroo star in Meredith Wilson's "The Music Man," Jan. 10-26, presented by Theatre Tulsa.



**DAEDALUS QUARTET:** Chamber Music Tulsa presents the technically superb quartet at ahha, Jan. 31 and the Tulsa PAC, Feb. 2.

Group. The plot follows a couple who meet on Tinder. It explores "nostalgia, misogyny and fame in a post-Gamergate world." If you enjoy experimental theatre, this could be for you. The show's audience guidelines forewarn "mature themes, violence and gore."

The Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center hosts the beloved Broadway musical "The Color Purple" for one night only, Jan. 21, and the 11-member a cappella singing group Voctave on Feb. 1. Voctave performs musical theatre, barbershop, pop tunes, gospel and contemporary Christian music. I encourage you to listen to their rendition of "Over the Rainbow" on YouTube. Perfection.

Happy New Year to all! With 20/20 foresight, I envision that the upcoming year will be filled with good times and great memories.



**IAN DAVID ROSENBAUM:** The percussionist will be a special guest of Choregus on Jan. 24

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# There's No Music Like Oklahoma Protest Music

"The sun's coming up on the Verdigris River, just as it has for millions of years, trusting us with the balance of nature, give us this day as the time disappears."

— Randy Crouch  
*The Sun and the Wind*

The prized possession in my substantial vinyl collection is not

my limited edition White album on white vinyl, nor my Freewheelin' Bob Dylan album which has somehow survived 57 years without a scratch. Not even a mind-blowing 1968 live recording at the Fillmore West featuring a 19-year-old Carlos Santana can claim to be the star attraction in my assemblage of Rock & Roll gems. That title belongs to a rare, albeit lesser known album from 1978 titled, "For Our Children: Black Fox Blues?" that features something even closer to my heart than vintage Rock & Roll: Oklahoma protest music.

In 1973, Public Service Company of Oklahoma announced that it would be constructing two nuclear power reactors in Rogers County along the Verdigris River. The site was only a few miles from the town of Inola, a Cherokee word meaning "black fox." PSO adopted the name Black Fox for the proposed nuclear plant, and promised thousands of

jobs and an influx of tax dollars.

A Claremore teacher and resident of Inola named Carrie Dickerson felt the risks far outweighed the promise of nicer schools and cheaper utility bills and became determined to stop Black Fox.

Dickerson did not approach the battle with a by-any-means-necessary mindset. She refused to engage in civil disobedience, vandalism, or anything illegal. Her goal was to educate the public and organize fundraisers to finance the war against Black Fox, which would be fought largely in court.

A big part of that fundraising effort came from area musicians who performed at rallies, staged benefit concerts, and even recorded the aforementioned album, which is now proudly displayed in the home of your favorite local music columnist.

The movement gained international press, and soon our local musicians were joined by the likes of Jackson Browne and Bonnie Raitt who both performed at a May 24, 1978 concert at Mohawk Park benefiting the Stop Black Fox effort.

By 1980, after Dickerson and her fellow activists had been successful in their attempt to delay the plant's construction through requests for information and legal challenges,

## Searching for The Sound



By BRYAN CANTRELL



**FOR OUR CHILDREN:** This 1978 album was part of a successful campaign to stop the construction of two nuclear reactors on the banks of the Verdigris River in Rogers County near Inola.



**WATER IS LIFE:** Pam Kingfisher of Green Country Guardians shares a map indicating all the poultry processing plants throughout the northeast Oklahoma watershed. Each green square on the map represents a new farm, which consists of six to 10 barns. Each barn represents 50,000 – 80,000 chickens. The map was on display at a benefit concert to protect the area's rivers and streams.



**GOT TIME TO PROTEST:** Randy Crouch, seated, is joined by, from left, James Townsend, Bonnie Payne, Annie Payne, Brad Picolo, John Cooper and Joe Mack at a Protect Our Watershed concert last July. Hidden by the band but keeping the beat is Christie Guarde on drums.

the cost of the plant was beginning to skyrocket, from the original \$450 million to \$2.4 billion. On Feb. 16, 1982, PSO claimed the plant was no longer financially viable and pulled the plug on the project, marking a rare victory for anti-nuclear activists.

The takeaway: Oklahoma protest music gets results.

That's good news, because there's still work to do.

One cause that many musicians are currently putting their efforts behind is protecting the northeastern Oklahoma watersheds. Green Country Guardians (GCG) was formed in 2018 in response to a proposal to build six poultry houses in Oaks, Okla., threatening the beautiful, crystal-clear water of Spring Creek. Like Dickerson, the GCG focused on educating, organizing and legal action, and was ultimately successful. In May of 2018, the Cherokee Nation purchased the 60-acres of environmentally sensitive land.

Now the GCG has its sights on Arkansas-based Simmons Foods Inc., which is building large poultry processing plants that threaten the northeast Oklahoma watershed. For this battle, the GCG are getting help from some of the same musicians who helped stop Black Fox four decades ago.

"Isn't music the glue in all of our cultures?" This is a rhetorical question posed by Pam Kingfisher of Green Country Guardians. "Music is a binder. It can bring us together and teach us things," she explains at a Protect Our Watershed concert in Tahlequah last July. "This machine kills fascists," she says, a reference to the godfather of Oklahoma protest music, Woody Guthrie.

Kingfisher was active in Stop Black Fox among other activist movements and is now applying that muscle toward protecting northeast Oklahoma's rivers and streams.

"Water is life and we're here to make sure that we've got clean water for your kids, your grandkids, all of us."

Randy Crouch, who was one of the most active foot soldiers in the Stop Black Fox movement, performing at more than 50 stop Black Fox events around the state, is another veteran activist who, along with Kingfisher, is still fighting the good fight.

"I love this planet," Crouch says. He says this often, and judging by his actions, there is no reason to doubt his sincerity. "I'll do anything, anything any time that needs to be done for this project," he continues. "We're gonna save our creek. It's not too late."

Crouch performed at the Protect Our Watershed concert last July along with Red Dirt Rangers,

Meandering Orange, and My Tea Kind.

Another great lineup is slated for the Jan. 19 Oklahoma Clean Water Fest at Heirloom Rustic Ales from 3 – 7 p.m. In addition to music from Travis Fite, Monica Taylor, Dustin Pittsley, Scott Evans and more, the festival will feature presentations from Friends of the Illinios River, Green Country Guardians and Oklahoma Sierra club among others. Visit greencountryguardians.org for more upcoming events.

Carrie Dickerson passed away in 2006, but her work continues through the Carrie Dickerson Foundation, which was founded in 2003. For more information, visit carriedickersonfoundation.org.

Happy New Year to all you music lovers out there. Please continue to support local music in 2020, because it might just save the planet. More importantly, it might save the humans. So forget about diets and exercise commitments and make a simple resolution for 2020: keep searching, keep listening.

## CIRQUE DU SOLEIL ON ICE



**AXEL:** Cirque du Soleil presents its new spectacle AXEL with six performances Jan. 16-19 at the BOK Center.

AXEL tells an inspirational and musical story of a young graphic artist and musician, Axel, who dives into his hand-drawn universe as he falls in love with the captivating

Lei. Together they jet off on a fast-moving quest to retrieve the stolen light from the supervillain Vi. In this epic fantasy, graphic art and music intertwine to create the super-charged world of AXEL.

For show times and to purchase tickets, visit [cirquedusoleil.com/axel](http://cirquedusoleil.com/axel).

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

# Cancer Treatment Centers of America Names Dana Haynie President in Tulsa



DANA HAYNIE

Dana Haynie has been named president of Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) in Tulsa.

In her role, Haynie leads a diverse team of medical experts, clinicians, physicians and other talented professionals to help CTCA Tulsa meet the individual needs of patients facing cancer. Prior to her role as President, Haynie served as the hospital's vice president of growth and patient experience.

In her role as VP, she had over-

sight of communications, external affairs, physician relations, Advertising, employer relations, key market development, community outreach, loyalty, guest services and patient experience.

Haynie's leadership has created integration across these disciplines and meaningful communication of the clinical innovations found at the Tulsa location, while also leading considerable growth in the region. In 2017, she was named to a list of "rising star" health care

leaders by national hospital business news and analysis publication *Becker's Hospital Review*. In 2016, she was also recognized as one of *Oklahoma Magazine's* annual 40 under 40 in the state.

Haynie holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business and marketing from Oklahoma State University. She is passionate about her local community and serves on several organization boards, including the American Heart Association, Emergency Infant Ser-

vices and Jenks Public Schools Foundation. She also serves on the Tulsa Area United Way Women United Steering Committee and is a graduate of Leadership Tulsa Class 55.

In addition, Haynie is an active member of her local church and a volunteer for her area public school. She and her husband, Ryan, are the parents of two sons.

For more information on CTCA Tulsa, visit [cancercenter.com/locations/tulsa](http://cancercenter.com/locations/tulsa).

# Parkside Opens New Psychiatric Hospital

*Facility Features 80 Single-Occupancy Patient Rooms for Children and Adults*



GTR Media Group photo

Parkside Psychiatric Hospital and Clinic has officially opened its new hospital at 1239 S. Trenton Ave. in Tulsa. The facility, located immediately south of the Hillcrest Medical Center and Oklahoma

Heart Institute, will increase access to mental health in Oklahoma. The new facility features 80 single-occupancy patient rooms for children, adolescents and adults experiencing acute mental health crises.

"Our vision is to expand world-class mental health care is finally coming to fruition," said Debra Jones, CEO of Parkside. "The new hospital will allow us to increase the number of patients we treat each day and effectively remove barriers to treatment."

Over the past year, Parkside was unable to serve 486 individuals due to unavailable beds because of patient gender.

"This will serve a critical need for Oklahoma and even surrounding states, said Darren Sanchez, Parkside's Assessment and Referral Director. "Currently, our available beds for inpatient admissions

are in semi-private rooms and not always open to gender needs of presenting patients at any given time. However, 80 single-occupancy rooms in our new hospital will provide privacy for our patients and expand access to care."

In addition, the new hospital will offer secure open-air balconies for

each inpatient floor and provide enhanced space for groups and recreation.

Serving the community since 1959, Parkside's mission is to provide outstanding mental health and support services. Parkside is a not-for-profit psychiatric hospital and outpatient clinic that has helped

those with mental health and substance abuse problems since 1959. In 2018, 2,050 patients were admitted, and 1,305 received outpatient care.

Parkside's Assessment and Referral service is located at 1619 E. 13<sup>th</sup> St., and can be reached 24 hours a day at 918-588-8888.

**STATE OF THE ART:** The new Parkside Psychiatric Hospital has opened at 1239 S. Trenton Ave. in Tulsa. It is immediately south of the Hillcrest Medical Center and Oklahoma Heart Institute.

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# Memorial Park Cemetery Hosts Ceremony for Wreaths Across America

Memorial Park Cemetery, an official Wreaths Across America (WAA) location, hosted a wreath-laying ceremony in December, joining more than 1,600 other locations across the country for National Wreaths Across America Day. Coordinated and led by local volunteers, fundraising groups have raised \$6,420 to place 428 wreaths on the headstones of our fallen service members at Memorial Park Cemetery. The hopes are for one day being able to place a wreath on every fallen service member's grave at Memorial Park Cemetery from the growing community support each year. This annual event seeks to further the WAA mission of Remember, Honor, Teach, ensuring that the memory of those who served our country endures.



Photo by SM Tamara Shannon, Oklahoma Wing

**IN REMEMBRANCE:** Oklahoma Wing Civil Air Patrol Riverside Flight Cadet Airman First Class Chloe Shannon salutes a veteran's grave at Memorial Park Cemetery during the 2019 Wreaths Across America wreath laying ceremony.

tion to Kevin Hern, U.S. Representative; Cory Box, Jenks City Councilor; Kevin McDugle, Oklahoma State Representative; Joe Newhouse, Oklahoma State Senator; Michael Spurgeon, Broken Arrow City Manager; Jeremy Roberts, Broken Arrow Battalion Fire Chief.

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's mission – Remember, Honor, Teach – is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at more than 1,600 veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50

states and overseas. Memorial Park Cemetery Chapel is located at 5111 S. Memorial Dr. in Tulsa.

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# EDUCATION

## The Safety Circus, Louie the Lightning Bug Coming to Various Schools in Greater Tulsa

Step right up, folks, it's the one and only, ultimate safety extravaganza and it's coming soon to elementary schools, in greater Tulsa.

The Safety Circus, featuring Louie the Lightning Bug, will be presenting its safety show to hundreds of elementary school students across the Tulsa metro and surrounding communities. Nearly 50 Safety Circus presentations are on the schedule between Jan. 27 and Feb. 14.

Louie will be accompanied on the tour by his friends from the National Theatre for Children, which has nearly 40 years of experience delivering award-winning educational programs to students across the globe.

The Safety Circus teaches children how to use electricity safely, as well as how to identify and avoid possible safety hazards.

"The content of this program is essential to safety education," said Whitney Emerick, PSO communications director. "This interactive show gives kids information in a way they will remember, and its practical use could actually save their life."

The shows are scheduled for the following locations and times:

- Jan. 27** – Mitchell Elementary School (Tulsa), 9 a.m.
- Jan. 27** – Owen Elementary School (Tulsa), 1 p.m., 1:40 p.m.
- Jan. 28** – Hoover Elementary

School (Tulsa), 7:45 a.m., 8:15 a.m.

- Jan. 28** – Heritage Intermediate Grade Center (Coweta), 2:10 p.m.
- Jan. 29** – Deborah Brown Community School (Tulsa), 9 a.m.
- Jan. 29** – Springdale Elementary School (Tulsa), 1 p.m., 1:45 p.m.
- Jan. 30** – Bell Elementary School (Tulsa), 9 a.m., 10 a.m.
- Jan. 30** – Hamilton Elementary School (Tulsa), 1 p.m., 1:40 p.m.
- Jan. 31** – Andersen Elementary School (Tulsa), 8:30 a.m.
- Jan. 31** – Grimes Elementary School (Tulsa), 1:50 p.m.
- Feb. 3** – Dolores Huerta Elementary School (Tulsa), 8:45 a.m., 9:30 a.m.
- Feb. 3** – All Saints Catholic School (Broken Arrow), 1:30 p.m.
- Feb. 4** – Marquette School (Tulsa), 9 a.m.
- Feb. 4** – Country Lane Primary School (Broken Arrow), 1:30 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 3 p.m.
- Feb. 5** – Key Elementary School (Tulsa), 9 a.m.
- Feb. 5** – Council Oak Elementary School (Tulsa), 1 p.m., 1:30 p.m.
- Feb. 6** – Hawthorne Elementary School (Tulsa), 8:30 a.m.



LOUIE THE LIGHTNING BUG

- Feb. 6** – Tulsa SALT Home School Co-Op (Sand Springs), 10:05 a.m.
- Feb. 6** – Zarrow International School (Tulsa), 1:30 p.m., 2:15 p.m.
- Feb. 7** – Inola Elementary School (Inola), 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m.
- Feb. 7** – Emerson Elementary School (Tulsa), 1 p.m.
- Feb. 10** – Garfield Elementary School (Sand Springs), 8:15 a.m., 8:50 a.m.
- Feb. 10** – Academy Central Elementary School (Tulsa), 1 p.m.
- Feb. 11** – Oologah Lower Elementary School (Oologah), 9:45 a.m., 10:40 a.m.
- Feb. 11** – Sequoyah Elementary School (Tulsa), 1 p.m., 1:45 p.m.
- Feb. 12** – Peary Elementary School (Tulsa), 8:30 a.m., 9 a.m.
- Feb. 12** – Limestone Technology Academy (Sand Springs), 1:40 p.m.
- Feb. 13** – West Elementary School (Jenks), 9 a.m., 9:40 a.m.
- Feb. 13** – Allen Bowden Elementary School (Tulsa), 1:30 p.m.
- Feb. 14** – MacArthur Elementary School (Tulsa), 8:15 a.m.
- Feb. 14** – McKinley Elementary School (Tulsa), 12 p.m., 12:30 p.m.



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# Holiday Project Shows the Ultimate Teamwork

## Carpentry, Production Printing Students Collaborate on Festival of Lights Entry

Teamwork is defined as “the combined action of a group of people, especially when effective and efficient.” One example of the teamwork Tulsa Tech teaches our students is the holiday float project at the Sand Springs campus.

Each year programs on the campus come together to create a float for the Sand Springs Festival of Lights Christmas Parade. The annual event gives students and instructors a chance to have fun and utilize their creativity, all while teaching students the skills they need in the workforce.

“Mr. (Casey) Chesser teaches us that we have to measure twice and cut once,” Mandy Miller, an adult Carpentry student said. “Doing that means we don’t mess up on the cut because it has to be exact.”

The attention to detail is critical on the project. With more than one program taking part, any slight measurements or cuts being off can impact the work that other students are putting into the project.

“We had to make sure all of the measurements were right because Production Printing is going to

be wrapping the house. So our measurements have to match up,” Miller said.

“We all work together as a team, just like working on a job site,” Brayden Cummings, a high school carpentry student, added. “You don’t want to put your partner behind on their job so we all work together.”

Looking at the gingerbread house float you can see the tremendous effort put forth by our students; the walls squared off, the roof at the correct pitch and each wall true. The skills needed for this project transfer straight from the classroom to

the growing carpentry profession. Recent data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows carpentry is growing at about eight percent, which is double the average rate. On average, a carpenter in the Tulsa area earns about \$45,000 a year.

But carpentry is only half of this job, students in the Production Printing program will cover the plywood to make it look like a gingerbread house, and how fast it comes together even surprises some of the students.

“I just can’t believe what we are

able to accomplish (pointing to the house) in such a short amount of time,” Jeff Petersen, an adult student in the Production Printing program said with a smile. “Our program started on this at 8:30 yesterday morning and we have printed over 100 feet of material.”

It is quite an accomplishment to create all of the visuals for the gingerbread house. But while it was a challenge, students were exposed to important topics including time management, meeting deadlines and overcoming fear.

“To be able to do this, be under a time crunch and conquer some of my personal fears is a huge deal for me,” Petersen said.

The float is also a point of pride for each person involved in the project. When it travelled down the streets of Sand Springs last month, students were able to say with pride that they helped build it. For those involved, it was not just the pride of taking part, but the teamwork it took to build.

“This is Tulsa Tech coming together as one team,” Miller said. “We built this float together so it can bring joy to everybody watching the parade.”

“Everybody is like family, from the day I walked into Tulsa Tech, I knew this was where I was going to come,” Petersen added with a smile.

More than just the smiles, the float is a physical reminder of the skills Tulsa Tech is teaching each and every student, allowing them to Make Their Own Path toward their career.

If you are currently looking for exciting classes for high school



Photo by Vanessa Aziere/Tulsa Tech

**PARADE FLOAT:** Carpentry instructor Casey Chesser works with carpentry student Mandy Miller and production printing student Jeff Petersen to decorate a float featuring a gingerbread house for the Sand Springs Festival of Lights Christmas Parade.

and adult students, quality corporate training, or a challenging new career, Tulsa Tech invites you to

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### News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER  
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# Demolition of Union Tuttle Stadium Underway

*44-Year-Old Structure Will Be Replaced With \$42 Million Facility*

Union Public Schools began demolition on the west side of the Union Tuttle stadium on Jan. 9. The stadium was originally built in 1976. The project is in preparation for the construction of a new \$42 million stadium and fine arts facility, which also includes significant renovations in the high school. The new stadium complex will include improved accessibility on the "home" side, including redesigned concessions and restroom facilities, as well as the creation of a new fine arts addition at the north end zone of the football field to serve the Union Renegade Regiment Marching Band.

Teardown of the stadium's west side will take six to eight weeks. The new stadium is expected to open in 2021, followed by the fine arts addition in 2022.



Courtesy Union Public Schools

**WORKING FOR THE FUTURE:** Demolition of the west side of Union Tuttle Stadium got underway Jan 9. Originally built in 1976, the new stadium complex will include improved accessibility on the "home" side, including redesigned concessions and restroom facilities, as well as the creation of a new fine arts addition at the north end zone of the football field to serve the Union Renegade Regiment Marching Band.

In attendance were Superintendent Dr. Kirt Hartzler; Associate Superintendent Charlie Bushyhead, who is leading construction of the new facility; Dr. Wesley Jarman (superintendent from 1975-1990), who oversaw the construction of the original stadium; and Gil Cloud, who formerly served as athletic director.

"Union Tuttle Stadium has served us well for 43 years, but it's time that we make improvements to better serve all of our students and patrons," said Superintendent Hartzler. "We will make it up to our fans in the 2021 season, when we host more home games in a new stadium. It will definitely be worth the wait, as

the fan experience will be greatly enhanced."

Union plans to host three or more football games next fall. Spectators will be temporarily reassigned to the east and north bleachers for the 2020 season.

Other additions include a new wrestling practice area, an expanded weight room, and locker room, as well as a new press box. The final phase of the project will include high school interior renovations providing new spaces for the arts, volleyball and spirit groups.

In the last two years alone, Union Tuttle Stadium has hosted 866 events. Union's first varsity football game in the old stadium took place on Sept. 24, 1976.



Courtesy Union Public Schools

**UNION LEADERSHIP:** Attending the demolition event are, from left, Gil Cloud (former Union athletic director in 1976 when Tuttle Stadium was first built), former Superintendent Dr. Wesley Jarman and Superintendent Dr. Kirt Hartzler.



Courtesy Union Public Schools

**EMPTY SECTION:** This close-up shows the first phase of the demolition project as an entire section is removed.

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## BIXBY SPORTS

# Senior Spartan Wide Receiver Ends High School Career with State Title, Now Stillwater Bound

*Life-Long OSU Fan Brennan Presley Hopes to Follow in the Footsteps of Cowboy Greats*

By **MIKE MOGUIN**  
GTR Sports Writer

Brennan Presley had an outstanding career at Bixby, displaying his skills as one of the top receivers in the state.

The senior Spartan closed the deal on the next chapter of his life when he signed with Oklahoma State University last month.

Presley made a verbal commitment to the Cowboys in the summer. His decision is rooted in the fact that he has always been an OSU fan, he said.

"They have used their receivers and built them to be the best receivers in the country," Presley said. "They use their spots to give them the ball and let them do what they do. I felt like I should be there."

Dez Bryant, Justin Blackmon, David Glidden and James Washington are Cowboy receivers from the past that Presley looks up to. A present day Poke, Tylan Wallace, is also a favorite of Presley's.

"They've (OSU) had a bunch of receivers that I really liked," he said.

Other schools had pursued Presley, but once OSU called, that was it.

"I knew I wasn't going anywhere else. It was going to have to be that choice," he said.

During his time at Bixby, Presley played on three Class 6AII state championship teams in a four-year period (2016, 2018 and 2019) and added to a program that has won five of the past six titles. The year the team did not finish on top, it was runner-up (2017).

"It is very meaningful," Presley said. "Just knowing how hard we worked through the offseason. After winning last season, we were already hitting the weights the Monday after, gearing for this season. So just knowing how hard we worked and just the things we did is a testament to everything we've accomplished."

In the 2019 season, Presley caught 98 passes for 1,515 yards and 24 touchdowns. He was also a force in the defensive secondary as he made seven interceptions, including two he took back for scores.

Another plus for Presley was he got to play with his younger brother, Braylin, a sophomore who started in the backfield.

"It is very good," the older Presley said. "Just knowing what he could do and what I can do, we put our talents for the team and

not ahead of the team. It was really great that we both shined together, but made the team also shine too."

Brennan Presley shined in the Spartans' 40-36 win against Stillwater in the 6AII title game on Dec. 6 in Edmond.

Bixby had to overcome two deficits in that game. Presley caught one TD for 19 yards from quarterback Mason Williams and later returned a kickoff 98 yards for score that gave his team a 10-point lead.

"It was very anxious and nerve-wracking just being there," Presley said. "Just trying to stay calm while we were making plays and they were making plays was a challenge, because you don't want to get too hyped. We had to stay even-minded and not worry."

Presley said that until the final second ticked off, the Spartans never felt like they had the game in the bag.

"That's a great team (Stillwater). They had us down 17-3. So even after we went up, we never got complacent or never thought that 'we have this.' So, we just grinded it out and kept fighting through the game."

Final numbers for Presley in the 6AII final were 16 catches for



Photo by David Stacy

**BREAKING FREE:** Bixby wide receiver Brennan Presley breaks loose after catching a pass in a game in the 2019 season. The Spartans' standout is bound for Oklahoma State.

199 yards. He also ran to kickoffs back for 136 yards and rushed for 43 yards in nine handoffs.

Presley said that fans only see the prize, but what they don't see is the hard work the players put in behind the scenes to achieve it.

"Knowing how hard it was to get out there and play on Fridays – the weights, the summer workouts and everything else – that's the No. 1 thing I enjoy most, that I was able to come through it and persevere and get to play on those days."



Amy Meisner was diagnosed with MS in 1997. For someone who has always danced, MS would seem like the end. But for Amy, it means the start of a new chapter. She'll never leave the floor, still dances from her wheelchair, and is a great choreographer. Embracing Amy's undying passion, the National MS Society teamed up with LaTonya Swann to create an entirely new and inspired dance experience through virtual reality. See their experience and find out how you can share yours at [WeAreStrongerThanMS.org](http://WeAreStrongerThanMS.org).

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## SPORTS

# Tulsa Figure Skating Club Sports a Rich History

By **GLENN HIBDON**  
GTR Sports Writer

It was Black Friday and dozens of enthusiasts were enjoying a public session at the Oilers Ice Center, skating in circles, doing spins and racing from one end of the rink to the other. Along came a little girl wearing a smile and a shirt bearing the inscription "Icing Isn't Just for Cupcakes."

In their own way, the skaters were loud and proud, many of them members of the Tulsa Figure Skating Club. The organization, the fourth oldest such group in the United States, celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2018, almost in anonymity.

It can't match football or baseball or even hockey in popularity, enjoying a cult like status in Oklahoma, but Tulsa's club has a rich history that features Olympic champions and provides fun and recreation for those age five to 60. With more than 100 members, club Vice President Robert Baker

wants to spread the figure skating gospel while planning for a rise in figures on the ice.

"The first thing you need is a love and passion for skating. After that it takes a lot of determination and hard work," said Baker, who's in the oil and gas distribution business during his free time. "You need to be willing to get out on the ice two or three hours a day. It's a challenging sport."

Baker, a coach and mentor, has discovered skating and club membership can be for anyone who has the desire to put on a pair of blades. Sometimes all it takes is courage.

"I have a student who is severely autistic. He's 15 and very smart," Baker said. "He saw skating on TV and decided he wanted to give it a shot. I skate around with him for 30 minute lessons and he enjoys it. It helps in his balance, muscle development and coordination. I enjoy my time with him."

Some young skaters have a com-



Hailee Bollington's Photography

**CHRISTMAS ON ICE:** The Tulsa Figure Skating Club, which recently celebrated its 80th anniversary, pose for a group photo following its Christmas show on Dec. 14 at the BOK Center.

petitive fire burning inside them. Mollie Ekaitis, a 10-year-old fourth grader at Jenks Southeast Elementary, has only been skating for two years, but was encouraged to try after seeing the Olympic Games on television.

McKayla Brooks, 13, came to the ice naturally. Her father is a hockey referee who took her to a public skating session.

"I started when I was nine and now it takes all the stress away from my schoolwork," she said. "My goal is to make the nationals and pass my field moves by the time I'm 15. After nationals I want to be a coach and help younger kids."

To help his daughter achieve those dreams, Daniel and Marissa Brooks, McKayla's parents, have dedicated themselves to her success. They spend up to \$1,500 a month taking her to practice, private tutoring, buying equipment and paying ice rental and travel expenses.

"I'm proud of her," said Daniel Brook. "What I like most about the sport is it's something we can do together. You have to be serious about it because you can shell out a lot of money and she wakes me up every morning at 5:45 (to take her to practice). She spends two hours before school and two hours after school."

Baker said for those who are not as serious as McKayla, club participation can start from \$100 to \$135 a year for kids and their parents. Different packages are available for collegians and others. Information can be obtained at [tulsafsc.com](http://tulsafsc.com).

The club travels to competitions in Oklahoma City, St. Joseph,

Mo., Wichita, Dallas and Arkansas. The team's five-state region includes, Texas, Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas along with Oklahoma. Tulsa features the Ink Rink Learn to Skate event and then Skate Tulsa on Feb. 29, 2020. The aim ultimately is to qualify for events like the regionals and then up to the nationals, worlds and Olympics.

Newcomers will start at the Learn to Skate level and can progress through the Senior Level. Experience and talent, not age, determines which skaters are in which level. The Tulsa Figure Skating Club has been turning out champions since 1938. Publicizing itself through social media and the Learn to Skate program.

Olympic years usually see an increase in those wanting to compete. Baker said with the nationals and world championships coming up, there should be an increase in interest next year. The TFSC was world famous in years gone by. David Wilkinson Jenkins won the Olympic men's freestyle gold medal in 1960, three world and four U.S. titles and became the first man to land a triple axel in a 1957 exhibition.

Will Smith, a current judge, captured first at the national championships novice men's freestyle in 1969 and placed third in junior men when Tulsa played host to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in 1970. The TFSC has sent three women to the nationals, including current performer Jin Wilson (three times), Kathy Gibson and Angie Simants.

While male members of the club have achieved glory in the past, the current crop of men are few

and far between. One aspiring young man is 14-year-old Cole Makin, home schooled through the Epic Charter program.

"We had a youth church group that skated one night and he came and skated," said David Makin, Cole's father. "For three weeks he asked me if he could come back and I took him one more time. He seems to be a natural. He tried soccer and basketball, but he wanted to learn to skate."

"He loves the challenge and enjoys doing something he can do and excels at. Few boys do it so he's in high demand. He's been to several competitions and hasn't lost yet. I don't know why more boys aren't involved. You get to hang out with all the young ladies and you can earn a college scholarship."

The elder Makin said his son is looking at Case University in Ohio for its dental school and skating program. If Cole does land a ride, it would be another feather in the cap of the TFSC.

"It is a predominantly female sport, but it's not meant that way," said Baker, who was an alternate twice to the nationals and won sectionals in novice dance pairs. "We would love to have more men and boys. It's a physically demanding sport because you do rotating jumps and it's as challenging as skating with a hockey puck or stick. Not a challenging sport? Don't knock it until you've tried it"

While figure skaters may not suffer the missing teeth and broken bones of some hockey players, can Connor McDavid or Sydney Crosby turn and a triple axel? Not likely.

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# Tulsa Public Schools to Honor 13 Into the Class of 2020 Hall of Fame

By **TERRELL LESTER**  
Editor at Large

A total of 13 new names will be etched into the pages of Tulsa's high school history book on January 30.

The eighth class of Tulsa Public Schools Athletics Hall of Fame will be honored during a banquet at the DoubleTree Tulsa at Warren Place.

All nine TPS public schools are represented in the Class of 2020, announced earlier this month by Gil Cloud, TPS director of athletics.

"The class is an interesting, diverse group," he said, pointing out that professional careers of honorees range from auto racing and coaching to international basketball stardom and internet startup.

One honoree, Joe Shoulders, will be inducted posthumously.

The Hall of Fame ceremony will be held at DoubleTree Tulsa at Warren Place at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 30. Tickets are \$100 per plate, \$1,000 per table. Reservations can be made through Lisa Norman, TPS Athletics Department, 918.746.6453.

The honorees:

**Jim Benien**, Central, 1968. Won nine varsity letters in football, basketball, track and tennis. Became widely known for racquetball success in 1970s. Developed Tulsa's first private racquetball clubs, Jim Benien Courts, and launched All American Fitness and Racquetball Center.

**Lisa Barry Berg**, Edison, 1974. Dominated youth tennis circuit before even reaching Edison, earning top five Missouri Valley rankings in



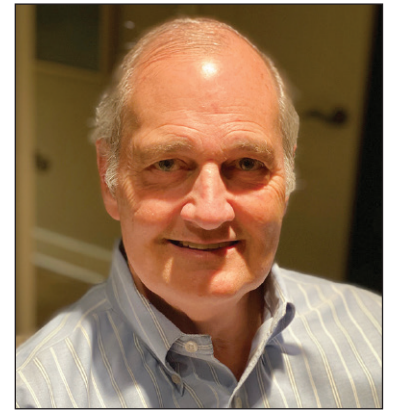
**JIM LINN**



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**LISA BARRY BIRD**



**JOHN BENIEN**

the 1960s. Women's coach at Oral Roberts University (1979-81). Tennis director at Rafael Racquet Club in San Rafael, California, since 1989.

**Ebi Ere, McLain**, 1999. All-State Basketball co-Player of the Year in 1999, helped lead University of Oklahoma to Final Four in 2002.

Performed at all-league levels in Australia, Italy, Spain, France and Uruguay since 2003. In 2006 and 2009, was member of Nigerian national team.

**Emmett Hahn**, Webster, 1958. Competed in swimming and football at Webster but better known in car racing. Won five season titles during 1970s driving stock cars at Tulsa Speedway. Co-founder in 1987 and promoter of Chili Bowl Nationals in Tulsa. Also founded American Sprint Car Series.

**Wally Knapp**, Rogers, 1949. All-State baseball player at Rogers, coached Webster to 1958 and 1959 baseball state championships. Moved to Hale when school opened

in 1959 as head baseball coach (nine years), golf coach (12 years), basketball coach (11 years) and director of athletics (five years).

**Lawrence Lane**, Central, 1966. Since 1971 known as "The Voice of the Hornets" as public address announcer at S.E. Williams Stadium. Playing basketball for Eddie Sutton, became known as "Night Train." During 38 years in education, served as president of Union Classroom Teachers Association.

**Jim Linn**, Hale, 1964. All-City in baseball, basketball and football. All-State quarterback led team to state runner-up finish in 1963. Played on winning Orange Bowl team (1968) at Oklahoma. Earned juris doctor degree at OU, spent 28 years in oil and gas contract drilling industry with Parker Drilling.

**Emmit J. McHenry**, Washington, 1962. Collected 12 varsity letters in football, wrestling and tennis. Has been an integral partner in founding numerous companies, foremost being Network Solutions,

the internet domain services provider. Wrote the first .com code for the internet as we know it today.

**Vincent Orange**, Webster, 1977. Winner of nine varsity letters in football, basketball and track. All-State running back, All-City Back of the Year in 1976. Played three seasons at Oklahoma State University. An ordained minister, also has more than 25 years of global experience as manufacturing and operations executive.

**Jason Parker**, Memorial, 2000. Memorial's all-time scoring leader and basketball All-Stater. Played in 133 career games for University of Tulsa, five professional seasons in Italy, Greece, Russia. Director of Athletics for Monte Cassino School (2013-15) and Sapulpa Public Schools (2015-19) and currently in Muskogee.


**Jim Shields**, Coach. California native coached East Central to wrestling state championship in 1977 and Bishop Kelley in 1985. Has been assistant coach at Edison

since 2015. Won Big Eight Conference title at Oklahoma State at 177 pounds in 1971. Member of Oklahoma Wrestling Hall of Fame.


**Joe Shoulders**, East Central, 1943. Was assistant basketball coach at McLain when school opened in 1959. Elevated to head coach in 1962. Was director of athletics and chair of math department. Member of Oklahoma Coaches Association and Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association halls of fame. Died in April 2014.

**Bobby Jack Stuart**, Rogers, 1944. State sprint gold medalist in 100 and 200 as senior, then played on TU's 1945 Orange Bowl championship football team. Drafted into Army and appointed to West Point, played on Army's 1945 national championship team. All-American at Army 1948. Drafted by two NFL teams, Los Angeles in 1948 and Cleveland in 1949, but instead served in Air Force for seven years. Chairman of the Board of J.D. Young Company.

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Hosted by: from left, Tulsa Public Schools Athletic Director Gil Cloud, local and national TV sportscaster Chris Lincoln.



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# Metro Christian, Lincoln Christian Celebrate Oklahoma State Championship Football Titles

By MIKE MOGUIN  
GTR Sports Writer

Two Tulsa area private schools – Metro Christian and Lincoln Christian won state championship football titles in their respective classes this past season.

Metro was crowned for the first time ever on the gridiron after it defeated Vian 42-34 in the Class 2A title game on Dec. 14 at Wantland Stadium in Edmond.

“For years, we’ve had success, but to reach the pinnacle and to finally win one is huge,” Metro coach Jared McCoy said. “Our kids have really been blessed by the outpouring of accolades and appreciation for what this team has done for our community.”

The Patriots, who finished unbeaten at 15-0, totaled 444 yards of offense with quarterback Asher Link accounting for 91 percent of it. He passed for three touchdowns and 271 yards on 26-of-32 attempts and rushed for 135 yards on 24 carries.

“He did it both with his arms and his legs that night, really like he’s done all year,” McCoy said.

Link’s top receivers were Carson Callo-way (eight catches for 80 yards and one TD) and Aidan Currivean (six receptions for 158 yards and two TDs).

“This is a blast. We were really going for the gold ball. It’s just a blast doing it with my teammates,” Link said. “I owe it all to them. We worked as a team. We worked really hard.”

Currivean caught the first TD from Link, a 36-yarder, that gave the Patriots an 8-0 lead with 4:28 left in the opening quarter.

“I saw the ball go up and I decided to go for it,” Currivean said.

The Metro defense also forced four turnovers -- two fumbles and two interceptions, including one by Link.

Metro took a 15-0 lead in the first half but found itself down twice in the second half before going on a three-TD run with Link scoring on runs of four, 10 and 65 yards.



LINCOLN CHRISTIAN: CLASS 3A CHAMPIONS

Courtesy photo

The Patriots led 42-28 with 3:48 left in the game.

“The o-line blocked for me all night,” Link said. “They kind of blew us up at the end of the first half, but we made adjustments and got it done in the second half.”

Vian scored once more before Metro put it away with the recovery of an onside kick with under two minutes left.

One week earlier, Lincoln was crowned the Class 3A state champion as it dominated Plainview, 42-21, on the same field.

It was the second state title in school history for Lincoln. It last won in 2009.

What was also special was that the program under father-son duo of coach Jerry Ricke and quarterback Chase Ricke.

“It was really special, especially doing it with my dad,” said Chase, a senior. “Because as a coach, this was his first one and to be a part of it is a special feeling.”



METRO CHRISTIAN: CLASS 2A CHAMPIONS

Courtesy photo

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Lincoln, who also finished unbeaten with 14 wins, got out to a 14-0 lead to start the game. The Bulldogs later built up a 35-14 advantage in the third quarter before Plainview took a kickoff back for a score. The Indians were knocking on the door in an attempt to draw within one TD before junior defensive back Kolbe Katsis made an interception.

“The first drive, whenever the defense got that first stop, it was really big,” Chase Ricke said. “You get a really good feeling as an offense going in knowing that the defense got a stop and you’re about to go in and score, because we scored on the first drive of every game we had this year and so we knew we were going to go up 7-0.”

“Then, it was near the end of the game whenever Kolbe (Katsis) picked it off at the four-yard line, then we drove and took off six or seven minutes of the game and score and it put us up by 21. Those were probably the biggest keys of the game,” the younger Ricke added.

The Bulldogs responded with a long drive that led to a clinching 4-yard TD run by Chase Ricke with 2:59 left in the game. That was the moment Lincoln Christian felt like they had it in the bag.

“It was a special year,” coach Jerry Ricke said. “I got to do this with my son. I coached his class since they were in third grade. We

had a relationship with a lot of the kids that was rooted in a lot of hard work. We really enjoyed being around each other and that made the whole fact that we’ve won it this year very special.”

The younger Ricke threw two TDs for 242 yards on 18-of-21 attempts. Katsis was his leading receiver with one TD on 13 catches for 134 yards. Senior running back Josh Kaste rushed for 146 yards on 28 carries and had three TDs.



HARRY LENTZ for GTR Media Group

**HONOR ROLL EFFORT:** University of Tulsa junior forward Jeriah Horne was named to the American Athletic Conference’s weekly honor roll for the second time in three weeks after his performance in Tulsa’s conference opener against Temple Jan. 3.

In the first game of the new year, Horne scored a game-high 23 points in 34 minutes. He shot 7-of-16 from the field for 43.8 percent and 4-of-10 from 3-point range for 40 percent. Horne added a game-high 7 rebounds, 2 assists and added a block and steal leading Tulsa to a 70-44 victory.

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# President Teddy Roosevelt and the OSSAA

## Eastern Side of Oklahoma Loses Football Championships

### Oklahoma Territory Side of State Received State Capital, Leading State Universities; I.T. Got Prison

By GRANT ROWL  
Contributing Writer

The 2019 Oklahoma high school 6A football championship games drew some consternation among fans of Owasso and Jenks who had to travel to Edmond on Dec. 7 to see them. Traditionally, the Okla-

homa finals would be played in locations nearer to the championship teams.

Mike Brown of the Tulsa World addressed the issue in a Dec. 21, 2019 article when he wrote, "The Oklahoma Football Coaches Association started lobbying the OSSAA (Oklahoma Secondary

School Athletic Association) to centralize the championships three years ago. The coaches wanted something similar to the Texas model, where 12 title games are being played over four days in the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium in Arlington."

Brown added, "Just six days after the Dec. 7 game, State Senator J.J. Dossett, D-Sperry, filed legislation that would give responsibility to competing schools – and not the OSSAA – for determining championship sites."

Moving the championship games to central Oklahoma is another loss for the eastern part of the state, known before statehood as Indian Territory

Oklahoma received its statehood in 1907 when President Theodore Roosevelt signed the statehood proclamation. Before statehood, what is now the state of Oklahoma was to be two states made up of Oklahoma Territory to the west and Indian Territory to the east. Today, Oklahoma City is in what was Oklahoma Territory and Tulsa is in what was Indian Territory.

In explaining the formation of statehood, Linda Wilson of the Oklahoma Historical Society writes, "Several events in



Painting by Mike Wimmer

**STATEHOOD SIGNING:** President Theodore Roosevelt officially signs the Oklahoma Enabling Act on June 16, 1906, which provided for the writing of a constitution for a state to be formed from the merging of Indian and Oklahoma territories."

the 1890s brought I.T. closer to statehood. In 1893 the Indian Appropriation Bill called for the Dawes Commission to meet with the Five Tribes to start the allotment process. Through the Atoka Agreement, ratified in 1897, the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations agreed to take their lands in severalty. In 1898, Congress passed the Curtis Act, which called for the abolishment of tribal governments on March 4, 1906. Realizing that their governments would soon be defunct, leaders of the Five Tribes convened the Sequoyah Convention in August 1905 in Muskogee to write a constitution, and a memorial to Congress for separate statehood for I.T.

"The Sequoyah Convention constitution was not acknowledged by the U.S. Congress, due to party politics. Indian Territory was bordered by two southern Democratic states, Arkansas to

the east and Texas to the south. Consequently, President Roosevelt, a Republican, and the Republican-controlled Congress wanted joint statehood to eliminate the possibility of I.T. joining the Union as a Democratic state. On June 16, 1906, he signed the Oklahoma Enabling Act, which provided for the writing of a constitution for a state to be formed from the merging of Indian and Oklahoma territories."

The result of the merger of the two territories was a plus for the Oklahoma Territory side which was awarded the state capital in Oklahoma City and the two major state universities in Norman and Stillwater. The Indian Territory side was awarded the state prison in McAlester.

And, most recently, apparently the Oklahoma Territory side will inherit all of the state football championship games.

### Tulsa-Based Boxing Program Adopted Nationally to Fight Parkinson's Disease

Through an exclusive licensing and marketing agreement, Ready to Fight Parkinson's Specific Boxing program (RTF) is now the official therapy-boxing program utilized and endorsed by USA Boxing, the National Governing Body for Olympic-style boxing, RTF's CEO Aaron Sloan recently announced.

Sloan, owner and head coach of Tulsa's Engine Room Boxing Gym, developed the program in 2016. RTF uses traditional boxing training techniques to address specific symptoms associated with Parkinson's disease, a chronic and progressive movement disorder that affects over

a million people in the United States.

The Colorado Springs-based USA Boxing will make the RTF program available to its registered boxing gyms and coaches nationwide through a certification and training process administered under the guidance of Coach Sloan.

"USA Boxing is excited to partner with Ready to Fight to provide physical and emotional support to Parkinson's boxers and families as they battle this terrible disease," says Mike McAtee, USA Boxing's Executive Director. For more information, see [www.readytofight-boxing.com](http://www.readytofight-boxing.com)

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THE ECONOMY

# AcrobatAnt Building for Long-term Success with New Hires, New Partners

As the calendar has flipped to 2020, AcrobatAnt officially begins its 12th year as a full-service advertising and marketing agency — with a whole new look and feel from this time a year ago.

Ten new “Ants” have joined the team over the past year. Two long-time employees, David Vávra and Bryan Cooper, will become partners and assume greater managerial responsibilities. Vávra, the agency’s controller, will be in charge of internal operations, tools, culture and team development in addition to his financial-management duties. Cooper, associate creative director for the past five years, has taken over as creative director as partner/founder and current creative director Danny Sadler has retired.

Much of this change was set in motion by the unexpected passing of co-founder and partner Diane Davis last November.

“Diane was the spirit of AcrobatAnt,” says Sadler. “It was a tremendous loss to each of us, personally and professionally. She was absolutely one of a kind, so the idea of ‘replacing’ her was unthinkable because it’s simply impossible.”

Sadler and his fellow partners, Angela Harless and David Downing, knew the best way to honor their friend was to make sure the agency she helped build, and that she was so passionate about, continued to thrive and grow. They began assembling a team that

would not only continue supporting the needs of the agency’s existing clientele — which includes long-time clients Saint Francis Health System and Mazzio’s — but also give the company greater ability to compete for business of virtually any size or industry.

That team is now in place. AcrobatAnt’s newest team members include:

- Four account managers with experience serving major brands at agencies in New York, Texas and Colorado, as well as the Tulsa market;
- Two multitalented graphic designers who add photography and motion-graphics to the agency’s extensive list of in-house capabilities;
- A seasoned director of website development with experience in creating technically efficient and aesthetically pleasing sites for the tourism, education and banking industries, among others; and
- A veteran media director with years of buying and planning experience for both traditional and digital media, as well as unique expertise with tribal governments and gaming.

Downing will continue to lead the agency’s account-service team and manage its brand-architecture process and deliverables, while Harless will transition from account management to strategy and support of all agency clients.



Courtesy photo

**ACROBAT PARTNERS:** The AcrobatAnt partners include, from left, David Vávra, Angela Harless, Bryan Cooper and David Downing. The company has expanded over the past year with the addition of four experienced account managers, a seasoned director of website development and a veteran media director. Acrobat Ant is located in Tulsa’s Lincoln Plaza at 1336 E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

“In any business, succession-planning is an important aspect for long-term viability,” says Downing, a Tulsa advertising veteran of nearly 40 years. “Along with our best-in-class creative, brand planning, media and account service, we’re poised to be able to work with any brand, no matter the size.”

Harless adds that it’s important for the agency’s future to maintain a diverse management team. “Having senior leadership with

account service, financial and creative backgrounds keeps the agency well rounded and not skewed toward any one department,” she says. “As I think about the new partnership team, it’s exciting to see four unique but complementary skill sets coming together with the unified purpose of doing great work, helping our clients realize success, and providing an awesome work environment.”

Established in 2008, AcrobatAnt is a full-service advertising and

marketing agency that provides strategic planning and execution of marketing and media tactics for clients in a wide range of industries. Offering in-house website and digital development along with graphic design, copywriting, video editing and analytics, AcrobatAnt prides itself on exceeding client expectations with fast project turnaround and a transparent pricing structure. The company’s office is in Tulsa’s Lincoln Plaza, 1336 E. 15th Street.

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# Home Builders of Greater Tulsa Names Barry Helms as 2019 Spirit Award Winner

Barry Helms, owner of Renovations by Helms, was selected as 2019's Spirit Award honoree in recognition a historic 1921 home remodel. The remodel included the second story master bath along with a custom closet expansion. The second phase was a kitchen remodel that included expansion into the sitting room for a walk-in pantry and removal of a twin staircase to improve the kitchen footprint. Helms employed 27 associate members of the HBA through this project.

Helms has been a member of the HBA since 1995. He has served on the Tulsa HBA Board of Directors for 20 years, Executive Committee for three years, as well as serving as the President of the Remodelers Council for three terms. He has also participated in 17 Home Remodeling Showcase events and served as

the chair four times. He has also maintained his GMB, CGR, CGP & CAPS designations through the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). Renovations by Helms has been a three-time HBA Spirit Award winner as well as a three-time HBA Remodeler of the Year.

Renovations by Helms specializes in project design, universal design, whole house remodeling, room additions, kitchens and baths, historical restoration, interior and exterior remodeling, repair services as well as custom home building. From design to final clean-up, The company offers a systematic approach to the remodeling and building process. Helms has been recognized as a National Remodeler of the Month by the National Association of Home Builders and ranked as the No. 1 contractor in the state

of Oklahoma in 2019 by General Contractor Magazine. He has been named TulsaPeople's A-List the last six years and nationally featured on HGTV.

In 1989, the Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa began recognizing builders who made the best use of HBA Associate member companies to complete their homes. The Spirit Award is one of the the association's highest honors, as it symbolizes the relationship between the contractor and the subcontractor and how important it is when building a home to use only qualified craftsmen and suppliers. Each year, many worthy companies enter projects for consideration of this honor, which are then analyzed by an accounting firm to determine which projects involved the greatest percentage of work by HBA Associate members.



**HONOREE:** Barry Helms proudly displays his HBA Award. With him from left are Erin DeWeese, 2019 HBA president; Tracie Englen, 2019 HBA Associates Council president and Jeffrey Smith, HBA executive vice president/CEO.

## Mike Fournier Takes the Helm As President of Home Builders

Mike Fournier of The Sonrise Companies in Broken Arrow has taken the helm as the 2020 president of the Home Builders Association (HBA) of Greater Tulsa. Fournier was installed as the head of the 1,000-member trade organization during the annual Installation Gala. Builders Jeff Starkweather of Epic Custom Homes and Lora Phillips, HBA life member, were elected Vice President/Treasurer and Vice President/Secretary, respectively.

Fournier's commitment to the Home Builders Association is shown not only through his projects but his dedication and service to the Association. His recruitment efforts won him the 2016 OSHBA Membership Drive (state-wide) OSHBA Membership Drive (large association,) the 2016 Top Member Recruiter for HBA, Top Recruiter for the HBA Remodelers Council as well as the 2016 Spike of the Year Award. He also received the May of '17 National Remodeler of the Month Award. He has served and chaired the 2017 Education Committee, Secretary of the HBA Remodelers Council, Parade of Homes, Public Relations Committee and currently serves on the HBA Board of Directors and Budget and Finance Committee.

Employed full-time since age 14, Fournier has succeeded in three unrelated industries; restaurant, insurance and financial management, and residential construction. Across the board, Fournier's customer service and marketing strategies are the principal reasons for his success. He possesses the unique skills, values, and interests to reach the pinnacle of success in the remodeling industry especially when those attributes improve his customers' most valuable asset- their homes!

In addition to the installation of new senior officers, several honors were also presented during the annual end of year celebration. The Spirit Award, the Association's highest

honor, which acknowledges builders who best utilize associate members for their building projects, was awarded to Barry Helms of Renovations by Helms.

Ryan Farabough of Farabough Homes, was announced as "2019 Builder of the Year" and Peter Grant of Grant Homes Remodel & Restoration, was named "2019 Remodeler of the Year" in recognition of their accomplishments and participation in the Association at the local, state and national level.

Carrie DeWeese of Chinowth & Cohen was named "2019 Associate of the Year", as well as Executive Committee Member of the year for her service and involvement in multiple HBA events. Becky Orr of McGraw Realtors was awarded the 2019 Spike Award, an award that distinguishes members for outstanding association recruitment and retention efforts. The 2019 "Young Leader of the Year Award" award was presented to Keelyn Elliot of 918 Interiors for her leadership in the 40Below Council. The Philanthropist of the year award was presented to Joe Robson of Robson Companies and Rodger Tucker of Cobblestone Homes.

Earlier this year, the Don Herrington Memorial Award, an award honoring a past member's commitment to the Association, was presented to Ed Schermerhorn of Schermerhorn Development and Rita Boggs of Charter Title & Escrow, was awarded the Frank Sanders Award for her long-term dedication to the HBA as an Associate member.

### About Tulsa HBA

The Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa is a not-for-profit, professional trade organization that is an advocate for the residential housing and remodeling industry in communities in and around Tulsa and serves nearly one thousand members. For more information, visit the [www.tulsahba.com](http://www.tulsahba.com).



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# OSU-Tulsa Police Department Names Captain

Oklahoma State University-Tulsa has named Michael Galbraith captain of its police department, bringing 19 years of law enforcement and community leadership experience to campus and to downtown Tulsa.

Galbraith started his career as an officer at Langston University and has served at OSU's main campus in Stillwater for the last 13 years.

"I know what it's like to work in this setting," Galbraith said. "It's an opportunity to be more hands-on with not just the university, but the community at large."

Galbraith will be OSU-Tulsa Police's highest-ranking officer, reporting directly to OSU Police Chief Leon Jones, who leads both OSU-Stillwater and OSU-Tulsa's police forces.

Since the university's police forces in Stillwater and Tulsa merged operations in August, Jones has focused on finding

opportunities to invest in the community. "It's not all making contact and arresting people," Jones said. "It's important to be a part of the community we are serving."

As the department's first captain, Galbraith is focused on that mission as well. "We're going to keep this department proactive with everything going on in our community and build on our relationships."

Galbraith says his initial goal is to get to know people and understand what students, staff, faculty and the community want and expect from the department.

"I want the public to see us as an agency they can come to any time for anything," Galbraith said. "I don't want anyone feeling like an officer can't be talked to or they can't come to us for advice or questions. We're going to be that friend away from home."



MICHAEL GALBRAITH

## BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

**Arvest Bank** announces the promotion of **Cara James** to chief risk officer, effective Jan. 1.

James will replace Bob Kelly, who is retiring after more than 30 years with Arvest, effective Dec. 31.

James recently served as senior vice president and chief compliance officer, a role she held at two other financial institutions before joining Arvest in 2013. James has specialized in compliance management since 1992, working in consumer protection regulation, as well as duties related to the Community Reinvestment Act and Bank Secrecy Act.

James previously worked as an auditor for a financial institution and at both regional and international public accounting firms. In her new role as chief risk officer, James will have overall responsibility for Arvest's corporate risk management policies.

"Cara's background and wealth of knowledge make her an ideal fit for this position," Arvest president and CEO Kevin Sabin said. "While the chief risk officer's role is largely a behind-the-scenes one, it is of critical importance and I am confident Cara will handle it in the exceptional manner she has displayed since joining Arvest."

James earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Oklahoma State University and is both a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager. Additionally, she is a member and past chairperson of the American Bankers Association's Regulatory Compliance Conference Advisory Board.

James will be based in Tulsa. During Kelly's time at Arvest, he has played a key role in its transformation from a Northwest Arkansas-only bank into a regional enterprise with more than 260 locations serving more than 135 communities throughout Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.

"Bob has been an invaluable part of the Arvest team, and we can't thank him enough for his contributions," Sabin said. "His unique insight, intellect and skill set have been vital in our collective efforts to grow while serving our customers through the years. Bob will be missed by all of us at Arvest."



JAMES

Oklahoma law firm **Hall Estill**, with offices in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Denver and Northwest Arkansas, announces that **David T. Potts** has been elected a shareholder in the Tulsa office.

"This accomplishment is a testament to David's leadership and commitment to the firm's clients and our community," said Mike Cooke, managing partner for Hall Estill. "He is a talented attorney and his election to shareholder status is well deserved."

David joined Hall Estill in 2017 as special counsel. He focuses his practice in the tax field, assisting clients in the areas of federal, state and local taxation, including controversy, litigation, and ad valorem matters. Prior to joining Hall Estill, Potts was a partner at James, Potts & Wulfers, Inc.

Potts earned his J.D. from the University of Tulsa College of Law and is involved in the Tulsa County and Oklahoma Bar Associations, as well as the Tulsa Tax Club. Further, he is a member of the board of directors for The Center For Individuals With Physical Challenges.

**Thomas Ramm** has been appointed chief investment officer for **Gateway First Bank**. In this role, Ramm is responsible for all capital markets and investment-related activities, including the development and execution of investment strategies, secondary marketing, hedging activities and capital markets strategies with government-sponsored enterprises. In addition, Ramm is responsible for developing and managing relationships with Wall Street broker-dealers and fixed income investors.

"This is a critical hire for us. Thomas is a deeply experienced capital markets executive," said Stephen Curry, chairman and CEO at Gateway. "His insights and leadership skills will enable us to navigate growth of our core businesses and rapidly changing markets."

Ramm has worked at both banks and independent mortgage companies over the last 15 years. He has substantial experience in capital markets, mortgage-related investments, and interest rate and credit risk management. Prior to joining Gateway, Ramm served as EVP of capital markets at Stearns Lending. He was also VP of capital markets at MetLife Bank and SVP, interest rate risk management at First Tennessee Bank and First Horizon Home Loans. Ramm attended the University of North Texas, where he earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in finance.

"I was attracted to Gateway's high growth and evolving company environment," said Ramm. "Gateway's transition to a bank earlier this year positioned the company as a diversified financial institution. I look forward to using my expertise to oversee a wide variety of capital markets activities to help Gateway achieve sustainable growth and strive for even greater excellence."



POTTS

**Gateway First Bank** also announces that **Joell Maddox** is joining the organization to help advance Gateway First Bank's treasury management services. In her new role, Maddox will be responsible for managing relationships with correspondent banks, title companies and commercial customers who are using treasury management services.

Gateway First Bank's new line of treasury management solutions further expands the products and services for the financial institutions' industry and demonstrates the commitment Gateway is making to its customer base. In May of 2019, Gateway Mortgage Group merged with a 100-year-old community bank to create Gateway First Bank. For the first time in history, a mortgage company evolved to become a bank, combining the technology and service that made Gateway Mortgage successful with the strength, security and product breadth of a bank.

"It is key we bring onto the Gateway First Bank team an accomplished leader in treasury management to help launch our products and services to best serve our client relationships and grow new ones," says Stephen Curry, chairman and CEO. "Joell has had a very accomplished career in the financial institutions' industry working with correspondent banks, and I look forward to her being a part of the successful culture and growth with Gateway First Bank."

Maddox's experience in the financial industry spans more than 30 years, blending both mortgage and correspondent banking. She has served in senior leadership positions with Origin Bank, IndyMac Bank and Wells Fargo as well as leadership positions at Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas and Lomas Mortgage. Most recently, Maddox was vice president of treasury management Sales at Origin Bank. She has worked with financial institutions in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Texas; all states that align with Gateway First Bank's target footprint.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Gateway team. Gateway's reputation for valuing the importance of relationships and strong focus on the consumer is very important to me. I am honored to be a part of their team and look forward to building relationships and having a long, successful career here," Maddox said.

Established in 2019 after the merger of Gateway Mortgage Group with a 100-year old bank, Gateway First Bank emerged as a leading financial institution that provides digital banking and mortgage services for consumers and commercial customers. Gateway is headquartered in Jenks, Oklahoma and funds over \$7 billion of mortgages annually and maintains \$1.4 billion in assets, six bank branches in Oklahoma, and 160 mortgage centers across America.



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# University Club Building Receives Design Award

*Editor's note: The three-story University Club Building, featured in this article, was built in the mid-1920s. The high-rise University Club Tower, located at 1722 S. Carson Ave., opened in the mid-1960s.*

In most cities, there are examples of really bad building remodels and really good ones. Tulsa is no exception. Sometimes a really good remodel seems so natural and authentic it's hard to tell what was original to a building and what was a result of a later face lift. So it is with a small structure at 114 E. 5th St. called the University Club Building. This early 1970s remodel was so well done that soon after its completion, the Eastern Oklahoma Chapter of the American Institute of Architects recognized its excellence with a design award.

The history of this building begins in the 1920's. The University Club Building was a utilitarian, three story red brick structure of approximately 16,000 square feet. The property included a small lot at 5th Street and Cincinnati Avenue which began as an early auto-

mobile service station and evolved into a small parking lot accommodating 24 to 26 cars. The west side of the building faced an alley, the rear abutted a lower two-story building. The front of this building faces what became the prominent Chamber of Commerce / Tulsa Club Building. An owner of the University Club Building was

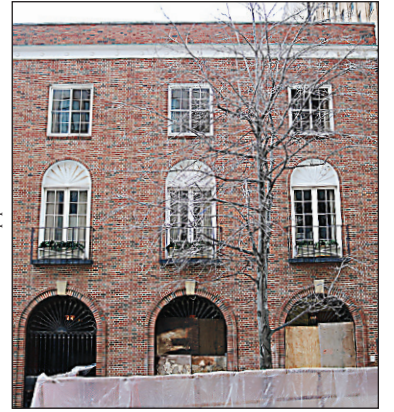
Waite Phillips, a major downtown property owner, responsible for the Philtower Building built in the late 1920s at the northeast corner of 5th Street and Boston Avenue, and the Philcade Building built in the early 1930s at 5th Street and Boston Avenue at the southeast corner.

Within his real estate portfolio, Phillips probably had little need for this small building. In a generous effort, he leased the building in 1931 to the Junior League of Tulsa, a non-profit organization devoted to community leadership among women, for \$1. In 1935 Phillips gave the building to the organization.

During its years of Junior League ownership, the building was internally organized utilizing a small front lobby with a single elevator, and a number of ground



**TULSA LANDMARK:** The University Club Building, built in the 1920s, was remodeled in the early 1970s and is again experiencing a makeover. In the background is the Philcade Building. Oil baron Waite Phillips was involved in the construction of both buildings.



**ARCHITECTURAL RENEWAL:** The University Club Building is located at 114 E. 5th St. in Tulsa directly across the street from the newly remodeled Tulsa Club Hotel. The University Club Building is currently experiencing its second remodel.

## On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

floor shops. A large dumb waiter was located at the rear. The second floor contained an open meeting room. At the third floor were more small shops and offices, a small kitchen and a tea room / lunch room.

Over the years, as downtown office space became more and more desirable, portions of the building were rented to others. In 1964 the Junior League sold the building to Mereland Stickelberry for \$120,000. In the 1980's Marion Oil Co. purchased the building. It is thought that this company was responsible for the remodeled front as it now exists.

The ownership chain continued with subsequent owners being Anchor Gasoline Corp and the current owner, the Interak Corp with

ownership from the Mayo, Sharp and Oliphant families.

The front of the University Club Building is strongly reminiscent of historical cities in the south. It reminds one of Williamsburg or perhaps Charleston or even New Orleans. Three semi-circular arches with stone keystones span the façade at street level. The thickness of the brick work at these arches is approximately 24 inches. The building wall with matching glass-filled arches has been recessed approximately five feet beyond forming a covered terrace. Suspended from the soffit above and centered on each arch is a large gas lantern. The paving below is gray slate which extends to the street curb. Finely detailed steel grillage fills each arch open-

ing becoming a gate at the far west arch, for entry access. Tall casement divided light windows occur at the second floor. These have Juliette steel balconies and ribbed arched wood transoms. The smaller third floor windows are double hung again with muntins (a bar or rigid supporting strip between adjacent panes of glass).

Above them is a small projecting wood cornice band with crown molding and round medallions. The front elevation treatment returns for six to eight feet at the east and west elevations. The historical accuracy of this remodeled front was handled extremely skillfully. Give it a drive by and go see it.

## DINING OUT IN GREATER TULSA

# Deco Lounge A Welcome Addition to Downtown Tulsa

### LOCAL DINING

By BLAKE AUSTYN  
Contributing Writer

Since opening last September, Deco Lounge, 607 S. Boston Ave., is aiming to capitalize on the growing number of residential units popping up in downtown Tulsa's Deco District and to establish itself as a welcoming neighborhood bar and lounge.

The space, formerly occupied by retail shop Decopolis, had sat empty for a while.

Deco Lounge offers bar and table seating as well as a more relaxed lounge area, complete with a unique piano for live music.

Its food options are relatively straight forward, with appetizers, burgers and a few entrees, many of the dishes with an Asian influence due to the owners' Asian heritage. The owners and their family have a long history in owning and operating Tulsa restaurants, including Ming's Noodle Bar, Golden Palace and Jow's Takee Outee.

My party started with Mama's Eggrolls. We weren't sure what was in them, as the menu does not list the ingredients, but we were feeling adventurous. Turns out, the egg rolls are a vegetarian dish, filled with cabbage, plus two sauces on the side: one of them spicy, and the other a more traditional, Asian dipping sauce.

For our main dishes, we chose the Bleu Burger and the Golden Palace Garlic Tenders.

The Bleu Burger is a patty topped with blue cheese crumbles, caramelized onions, lettuce and blue cheese dressing. The burger had a nice, subtle blue cheese flavor and was accompa-



**NEW TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD:** Deco Lounge, 607 S. Boston Ave., opened in Downtown Tulsa's Deco District in September 2019. The bar and lounge sits in the former location of Decopolis and is one of many new openings in the district, including DGX, a new concept by Dollar General, 522 S. Boston Ave, that opened in January.

nied by fries that were crunchy and not too thin. As an option, patrons can substitute a different side, if desired. Side options include Asian slaw, tomato cucumber salad and coconut rice.

Because I love coleslaw, I added Asian slaw as a side; it was crunchy and refreshing, with a largely cabbage flavor.

We also opted for the Golden Palace Garlic Tenders, which our server noted as being a popular item. The marinated tenders had an easy flavor typical of chicken

tenders and came with a side of sweet sauce that complimented the tenders' flavor well. The dish also came with a side of fries.

Deco Lounge offers drink and food specials throughout the week and during sporting events. Check its Facebook page for more information or call 918-932-8391.

As my party was leaving, the bar began to fill up with enthusiastic sports fans - as it was a Saturday college football day. Deco Lounge looks to have picked the right time to come to the neighborhood.



**BURGERS AND MORE:** The Bleu Burger, accompanied by sides of fries and Asian slaw, is topped with blue cheese crumbles, caramelized onions, lettuce and blue cheese dressing. The crunchy fries and the mild slaw paired nicely with the burger's blue cheese flavor.

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AREA NEWS

# Collinsville City Attorney Ken Ray Underwood Honored with James C. Lang Mentoring Award

*Recognized for His Leadership in High School Mock Trial Competitions*

The Tulsa County Bar Association has announced that the co-winner of the 2019 James C. Lang Mentoring award is the “Zen Master,” Ken Ray Underwood.

Underwood has served as the City Attorney in Collinsville since his appointment in July of 2002. He has lived in Collinsville since 1993 and has been a lifelong resident of Tulsa County.

After graduating from The University of Tulsa college of Law in 1975, Underwood began practicing in Tulsa with a focus on catastrophic injuries and wrongful death. Since then, he has been actively involved in the Tulsa County Bar Association, serving as board member and chairman of the public relations committee.

He received the President’s Award from the Tulsa County Bar Association for outstanding and dedicated services in 2013 and 2014. In 2018, Underwood was honored by the Tulsa County Association with the Golden Rule Award for outstanding contributions to the profession.

Already active in the community through his role as City Attorney in Collinsville, Underwood served for six years on the board of the Arubah Community clinic, a faith-based community health clinic in Collinsville.

In March 2018, he was awarded

the Legacy Award by the Arubah Community Clinic for service. He has served on the board of the Indian Health Care Resources Center, the Community Service Counsel of Tulsa and as the 2019 Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma honorary co-chair.

For the last six years, Underwood has helped coach the Owasso High School Mock Trial Team, taking them to the OBA State Finals the last five years, which is unprecedented in the 40-year history of the competition.

The last two years, he has played a major part in helping the team win State Championships.

On the Owasso team, Underwood is known to the students and coaches alike as the “Zen Master” for his inspiring speeches and competition day pep talks on the team Facebook page. He is always the last speaker at the team banquet for his inspiring words closing the season.

Underwood has been a model leader in keeping the very competitive multiple Owasso teams working together as a team and for the students to realize they are stronger working together rather than against each other.

Underwood also mentored young lawyers as a longtime supporter and volunteer of Lawyers Fighting Hunger in addition to volunteering for many years as a wrestling



**ON THE BENCH:** City Attorney Ken Ray Underwood judging the Martin Luther King Mock Trial tournament finals in 2019. This year’s tournament is scheduled for Jan. 20, at the Tulsa County Courthouse.

and weightlifting coach for Tulsa Boys’ Home. He has been a positive role model, mentor and leader his entire career.

Underwood is a member of the Cherokee Nation and is proud of his Native American heritage. He enjoys spending time on his ranch in Delaware County, which was his grandmother’s original Indian allotment. He also enjoys reading, hiking, raising cattle and spending time with his two grown children, Emily Underwood and Robert Underwood, and special friend Leslie Paris.



**ON THE TEAM:** Underwood poses with the Owasso mock trial team and Judges Daman Cantrell and Rob Ridenour at the Oklahoma State Mock Trial finals in Norman.

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